

BLM 2009 - State Support for Public Access Issues**FY2008 Request:****\$300,000****Reference No:****AMD41426****AP/AL:** Appropriation**Project Type:** Planning**Category:** Development**Location:** Statewide**Contact:** Nico Bus**House District:** Statewide**Contact Phone:** (907)465-2406**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2007 - 06/30/2010**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

The BLM 2009 Conveyance Project is a federal effort with the goal of completing federal land transfers in Alaska by 2009 for the Statehood Entitlement. The general funds are needed to augment federal funding and pay for work necessary to protection the State's interest in the area of public access and navigable water issues. No federal funding is available for this work and it is a very important part of this project.

Funding:	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	Total
Gen Fund	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000				\$900,000
Total:	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$900,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input type="checkbox"/> On-Going
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	0
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

Ch 159, SLA04 -\$1,268,000 in federal funds to start this project with a Supplemental.

Ch 3, SLA05 authorized \$4,232,000 in federal funds for FY06 through FY10.

Ch82, SLA06 authorized \$200,000 in GF.

Project Description/Justification:

This request for general funds to augment federal funding is necessary because continued federal budget reductions will result in the state receiving insufficient funding for this project. The overall Bureau of Land management (BLM) program is not being significantly reduced except for land surveys, therefore the reductions in federal funding will not significantly reduce the project workload for the state. In fact, some of BLMs streamlining efforts have resulted in more work for the state as BLM's efforts focus more on quantity than quality of decisions and conveyances. As a result, the state must put more emphasis on ensuring that public access is protected when lands are transferred to private ownership, that BLM decisions on Native Allotments and ANCSA conveyances recognize state ownership interests, and ensure that the state receives clear title to the land it receives.

In addition, the BLM has specifically stated that due to its reduced budget allocated to the state, the reduction in federal funds must be in the area of the state's work to protect public access and navigable waters, two critical components for the state. Federal budget reductions have reduced the BLM contribution to the state by at least 28%, or about \$300,000/year.

The BLM 2009 Conveyance Project will result in the state receiving approximately 10 –12 million acres still owed to the state under the Statehood Act. The project will also result in the transfer of over 8 million acres of federal land to Alaska Native Corporations formed under ANCSA. This CIP is necessary so that the state can continue to respond to and participate in this project. The state will need to review and respond to a significantly increased number of BLM conveyance decisions, decisions on easements and navigable waters, and requests for reconveyance of state land found to have been conveyed to the state in error. The state will also receive significantly more decisions to transfer land to the state under the remaining statehood entitlements and will need to process many additional title documents.

State of Alaska Capital Project Summary

FY2008 Governor Amended

2/28/07 2:53:02 PM

Department of Natural Resources

Reference No: 41426

Why is this Project Needed Now: This project provides the tools and the staff so that the state can participate in BLM's accelerated land transfer process. In FY 01-05, DNR has received an average of 50,000 acres per year from the federal government. In FY 06, BLM transferred over 1.5 million acres to the state. The federal government has clearly accelerated the land transfer process and the state must be an active participant in this process. Without this state funding, public access across ANCSA lands will not be protected and state owned navigable waters will be improperly included in conveyance documents.

Specific Spending Detail:Line Item Expenditures:

Personal Services (FY08): \$160.0. This CIP will supplement BLM funding for this project. Most of this CIP will be used to fund the ANCSA Conveyance Review team. This team will review ANCSA conveyances to ensure state interests have been adequately protected (i.e., access to navigable water bodies) as well as public interests (i.e. reservation of 17(b) easements, RS 2477 historic trails). Staff (several are partially funded by CIP, part federal funds, and part existing GF): Access Review Coordinator – 1 NRM 1 (partially funded by this CIP), ANCSA Reviews (including 17(b) easement review) – 1 NRS 3, 2 NRS 2, 1 NRS 1.

Services \$140.0 The above task categories will require the general office supplies and/or contractual services to supplement staff in one or more of the above task categories. Specifically, it also includes approximately \$126.0 to the Alaska Department of Fish & Game via a Reimbursable Services Agreement to continue funding on two existing position established in FY04.

Project Support: Federal Government, including Senators Stevens and Murkowski and Representative Young, US Bureau of Land Management, Alaska Native Corporations, individual Alaska Native Allottees, mining industry, Resource Development Council, other advocates of land and resource development, municipalities (primarily boroughs), individual Alaskans.

Prior Funding History and Status: The FY 04 Supplemental Appropriations (Ch 159 SLA 04) bill authorized DNR to receive \$1,268,000 in federal funds to start this project in late FY 04 and continue through FY 05. The FY 06 budget authorized DNR to receive \$4,232,000 in federal funds in FY 06 through FY 10. The federal funding level was to be \$1.1 million/ year.

Receipt of federal funds in FY05-06 allowed DNR to establish eight new positions and RSA funds for two additional positions within the Department of Fish and Game. Efforts during FY06 and FY 07 include: review of title documents in order to receive a ten-fold increase in the amount of land transferred to state ownership (over 1.5 million acres of new state and was received in FY 06); a four fold increase in the number of Native Allotments being reviewed and a similar fold increase in Native Allotment reconveyance requests from BLM; a significant increase in the number of decisions and survey conformance documents to review to ensure that public access is retained (ANCSA 17(b) easements) and state owned navigable waters are not conveyed; participation in BLM's regional meetings with ANCSA corporations on entitlement close-outs; and streamlining of existing DNR procedures to complement the federal procedural changes.

In the FY 07 budget, DNR requested and was authorized to receive \$200,000 in state General Funds to replace a \$300,000 federal funding reduction that resulted from a reduction to the US BLM's budget for this project. The BLM does not yet have a budget for Federal FY 07, but has advised DNR that there will be further reductions in funding to the state's for this project. This \$300,000 in GF will only partially offset the reduction in federal funds for FY 08. As a result, even with this additional state funding, the state will reduce staff who are reviewing federal decisions and documents to ensure access is retained to state and federal lands and some future access routes may be lost.